

# Minute Item 7.(v)

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**Sent:** 25 October 2017 17:43

**To:** Damian Eaton <damian.eaton@stockport.gov.uk>

**Subject:** Fawcett Society CRM:0470010

Thank you for your letter to The Rt Hon Justine Greening about the recent Fawcett Society report into women in local government, and your recent meeting to recognise the report. The meeting clearly demonstrates Stockport Metropolitan Borough Council's proactive commitment to equality and diversity.

Government and administrations should reflect the constituencies they serve, and the government recognises that gender parity is long overdue at all levels of governance. As you say in your letter, diversity in governance and decision-making ultimately results in more effective outcomes. We welcome all actions by local authorities, political parties and Parliament to increase diversity and remove barriers to participation.

The Secretary of State is absolutely committed to ensuring that gender is not a barrier to career progression or aspiration. That is why the government will be consulting political parties and producing guidance on ways to increase the numbers of women political candidates. As the Prime Minister has stated this week, Parliament should be a place women actively want to come to, where they want to contribute to their society, where they want to respond to the needs of local constituents, and make a real difference to people's lives. That sentiment is also true of local government.

You might not be aware that Marcus Jones MP, Minister for Local Government, DCLG spoke at the launch of the Fawcett Society's report and subsequently met with Dame Margaret Hodge MP, Gillian Keegan MP and the Fawcett Society to discuss the findings of the report in more detail. We have therefore passed your letter on to DCLG.

Government Equalities Office

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